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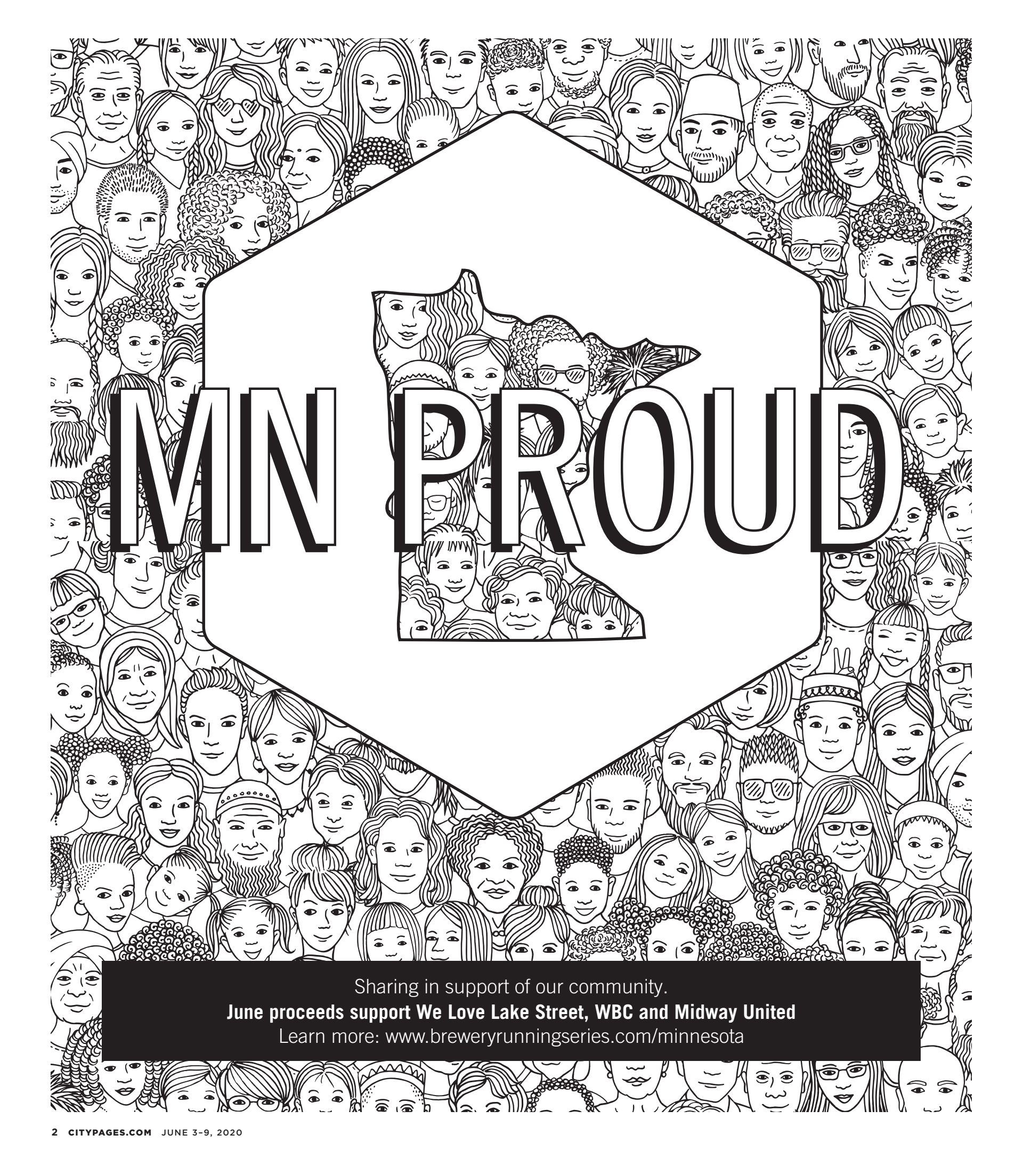
CITY PAGES

DELAYED JUSTICE
SETS THE
TWIN CITIES
AFLAME
OVER POLICE
KILLING OF

**GEORGE
FLOYD**

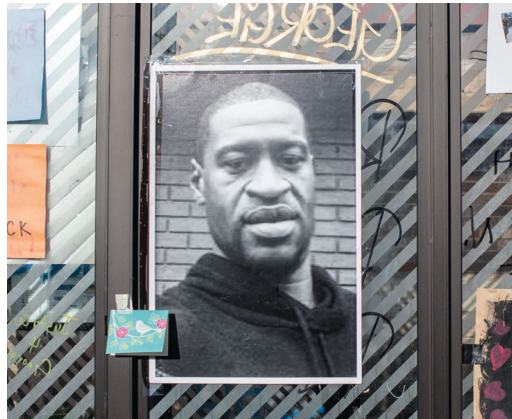


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UPRISING



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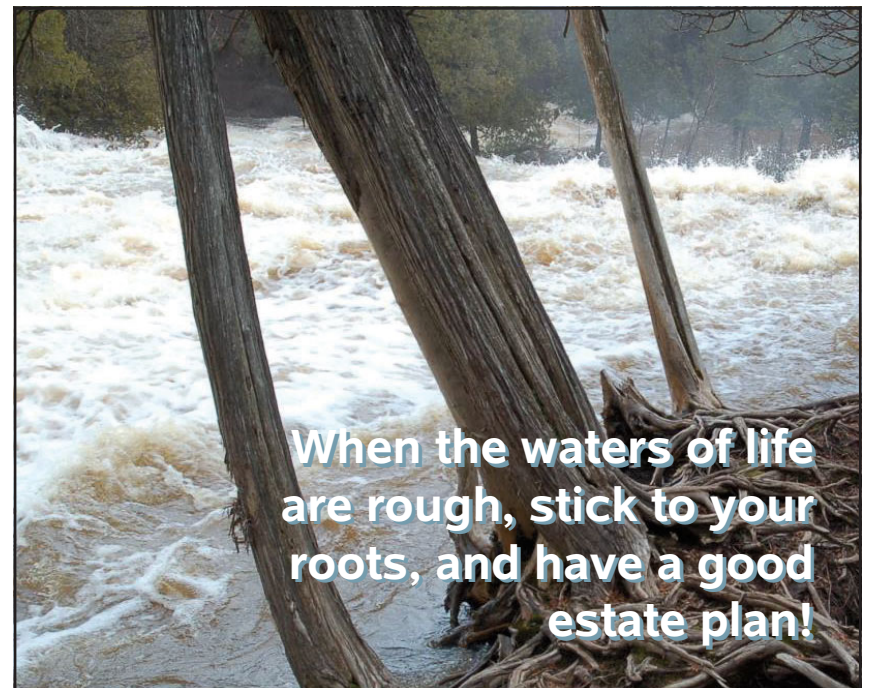
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THE SHORTLIST

Bob Kroll plans to 'fight for jobs'
of cops who killed George Floyd
at citypages.com



LEILA NAVIDI/STAR TRIBUNE

THE STAT SHEET

7,000

Members of the
National Guard summoned to
Minneapolis last week

19

People shot in Minneapolis
—two fatally—in the wake of
George Floyd's murder

105,095

U.S. coronavirus
deaths as of June 2

1 in 10

Hospitalized COVID-19 patients with
diabetes who die by day seven

**"I love her. Although I can't concentrate
on what the people are saying!"**

Reader Carole Ortega de Hilgenberg
responds to "Internet agrees: Tim Walz's
sign language interpreter kicks so much
ass" at citypages.com

LITTLE PHARMA

IT'S NOT A GREAT TIME to have a prescription
run out: Twin Cities pharmacies are among
the businesses hardest hit by last week's
protests. The Star Tribune reports that at
least 15 were looted, burned, or otherwise
vandalized, and many more are boarded
up and barricaded temporarily. Minnesota
Board of Pharmacy director Cody Wiberg
says they're working as quickly as they can
to reopen; in the case of at least one Cub,
the plan is to set up a temporary site. Until
there are more options, they're permitting
pharmacists to fill up to a 30-day emergency
supply of medications for new patients, and
a weeklong supply is available for patients
who only know the name of the drug.

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Man who begged **'PLEASE,
I CAN'T BREATHE'** dies in
Minneapolis police custody

LAKE STREET BURNED, looted
in chaotic night; pawn shop
owner arrested for murder

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neapolis cop **DEREK CHAUVIN'S
WIFE IS DIVORCING HIM**

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WCCO's Liz Collin but doesn't
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ONE AND DONE

Blackduck mayor resigns over Facebook post about running over protesters

Rudy Patch, until Monday night the mayor of the small town of Blackduck, Minnesota, has the dubious honor of becoming the second Minnesota city official to resign over his Facebook posts in as many weeks.

Patch says his post was taken out of context.

The first was Vadnais Heights City Council member Craig Johnson, who had a cornucopia of memes targeting Muslims, queer people, and trans people all over his page until last Tuesday, when he adjusted his privacy settings and abruptly stepped down.

Patch, meanwhile, undid his career with a single meme appearing on his Facebook page in the wake of protests spurred by George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police. It pictured what appeared to be a blood-soaked silver Jeep and the

caption, "I don't know what you mean by protesters on the freeway; I came through no problem."

In a terrifying scene on Sunday evening, a man driving a gas tanker truck on 35W in Minneapolis drove into a crowd of protesters, scattering thousands in what looked initially like a potential deliberate attack.

A screenshot of the post, which had vanished from Patch's page by Monday afternoon, included a comment that said, "[Making] a joke of human life. [You're] the fucking [mayor]."

The post quickly reached the ears of the city council, which scheduled an emergency meeting on the subject to take place Monday evening. The meeting was canceled later in the day, after Patch presumably beat the council to the punch by resigning.

Patch released a short letter, which was also shared on Facebook.

"I have made a mistake by sharing a



FACEBOOK

post without the correct context behind it," Patch wrote. "The post was in reference to a conversation I had the night before. I ran across the post the next day and wanted to share it with that person."

He said he "did not like the post" and did not see it as funny, and did not support "running over protesters"—rather, he

wanted "the individual to recognize how bad it could be to drive through protesters."

"I believe ALL lives matter," he said.

He also wrote he'd like to "get training available to myself and anyone who has interest in learning more about racism," and that he is "accepting the responsibility of his mistake." —HANNAH JONES

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MINNEAPOLIS UPRISING

Delayed justice sets the Twin Cities aflame over police killing of George Floyd.

interviews & photos

by

SUSAN DU

(Interview responses have been edited for length and clarity.)

SHA AND JAMES

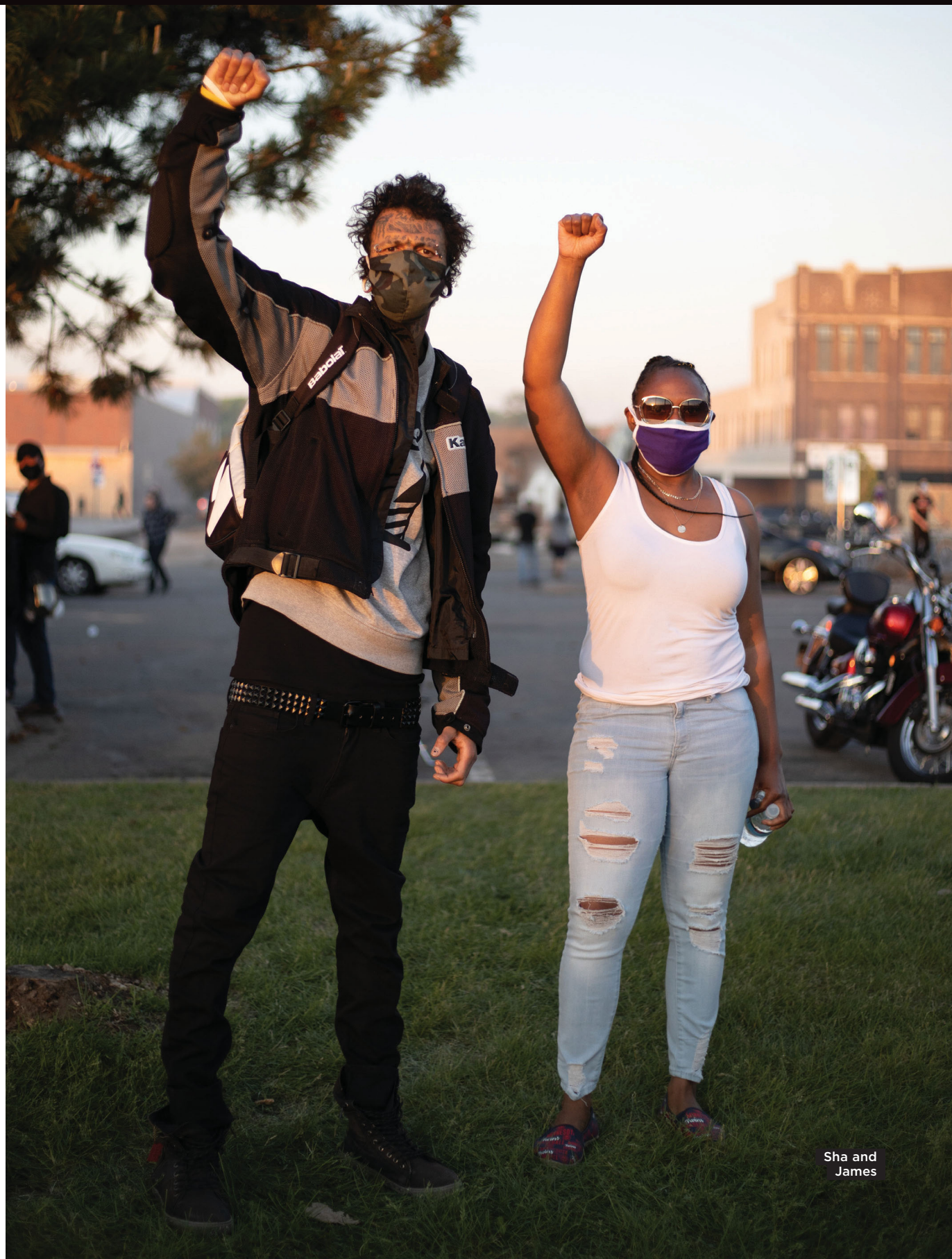
Sha: It's overwhelming. You're shell-shocked, you're really trying to process everything gradually, just trying to take everything in, the scene. For me, I'm more

behind-the-scenes; usually I donate money and things like that in my advocacy. But I just felt like it was a necessity to come out here. It was really in our backyard. It was very overwhelming to see one of our brothers go through that in broad daylight in a good neighborhood. My uncle and aunt, they lived in this area for 50 years.

I just wanted to come out here and show support in some way, uniting with other people like James, who are really out here just wanting to have a voice and ask for justice.

Coming from Mississippi, where racism is really out in your face, I always say that you know racism there. Here I think it's very subliminal. I think this incident has really pulled the veil back that people of color, especially black people, face here. The inequalities in our relationship with police. We're still recovering from Philando and what we endured through that. This is a land of opportunity for so many people. Minnesota is a melting pot. Coming here, people expect more than what's happening now. We pay these people to protect and serve. So we demand justice for him. This could have been anyone. This could have been my brother or my cousin or just my friends and even James.

I'm hoping we can bring justice and comfort to the families and just say enough is enough. Also I think it's very important that now our mayor and governor have to be held accountable for the disparities. I think for so long a band-aid has been held over, has been placed over



Sha and James



Davonna and Dominique

the racial disparities here. Minnesota is one of the most segregated states in this country. Now everyone is looking to us. I think we should show the world that we are resilient, we are strong, we are powerful and we can get through this. **James:** This is our message. This is our outbox. Now the police, you gotta look in your inbox. You have a message that's unread. Go and read it.

DAVONNA POWELL & DOMINIQUE RUCKER

Davonna: The anguish that people feel and the despair here, you can just feel it when you get in the area. It's heart-breaking. And it's hopelessness. This is

"It's not blacks versus white, it's not even about cops versus citizens, it's about the people against systemic racism and discrimination."

something that I'm glad is being brought to light, that it's catalyzed a movement, a revolution, but it's still sad to see. These are the neighborhoods that we grew up in, that we live in, that are in this state.

I grew up in North, started my family in North, I own my home in north

Minneapolis. There was a fire in front of my house last night and we've been up. We haven't really slept in three or four days because there's shootings, just chaos. There are so many different elements. It's scary, and necessary at the same time.

I have a tact somewhat to the way I approach my daughter because she's still young and she has white friends. Her grandfather and her uncle are both firemen, another one of her uncles is a police officer. So I'm trying not to jade her in that aspect. But there are systems of oppression that keep black men less than, and that's just the truth. I tell her what's going on in a way that she can understand it as a young person. Hopefully movements like this, this revolution, it aids in her not having to navigate the systems that I've had to navigate my entire life and my ancestors before me.

She's out and she's reading everything and she's trying to gain a better understanding of why are people so angry and why

STIGMA



Dear Community,

A week ago the death of George Floyd set off an explosion that has been steadily burning for decades in Minneapolis and around the world as the black community has been disproportionately served by the current system.

Today, we support our peaceful protestors, fellow businesses and neighbors who are protecting our community as we all wait for justice.

We are collaborating with our friends and neighbors at Modist Brewing to donate first aid supplies. Send us a message if you want to learn how you can help.

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did the police kill George Floyd, trying to wrap her little mind around it. I just try to guide her in a way that she's not jaded or making holistic statements, but she's truly understanding that there's evil in this world and there are people that are evil-doers and people that are evil-watchers, and she has to do her part in breaking down those systems just as the rest of us do.

Anything I can do to help support mental health and promote wellness in my community, I'm all for it. I'm glad that this matter sparked a revolution across the nation but still understanding what it's for, it's not blacks versus white, it's not even about cops versus citizens, it's about the people against systemic racism and discrimination. And that's what's important to me. Anytime I feel like the narrative is getting skewed, or it's about politics, I feel like it's my place to speak up and redirect the conversation. No, it's not about that. It's about right versus wrong.

ELIJAH

I've been out here all three days. I'm biracial, I'm 6'6", black and bald. I've dealt with feeling out of place my entire life.

I was down on 38th where it happened. That was peaceful. They were playing music over there.

I've been in Minnesota for 15 years, I've been in Minneapolis for four years. I'm from New York City, so I grew up in the projects. I grew up in poverty and I grew up dealing with what a lot of these people deal with on a daily basis.

Here, I have plenty of friends that are white and plenty of friends who had a completely different upbringing than I had, that don't know what it's like to worry about your next meal, that don't know what it's like to eat ramen for a month straight because that's just what your family can afford, to not be able to pay for a loved one's funeral because the family didn't have any money or they didn't have an insurance policy. I know what it's like to be in the neighborhood and have the shit go down and you don't call the cops because they don't come to help you. That feeling in itself, none of my friends have ever felt, none of my friends will ever feel, regardless of how empathetic they are. You need to be in those shoes to feel that.

When I was watching these people get tear-gassed yesterday and I was watching the courage of these people running around the corner, dousing themselves with milk, running back to the front lines, all ages, kids, adults, older people, all races, I've almost never felt the city come together like that outside of a miscellaneous concert or something like that.

But as sad as it is to say: If shit didn't hit the fan in the past couple of days, you think we'd be talking about it? You

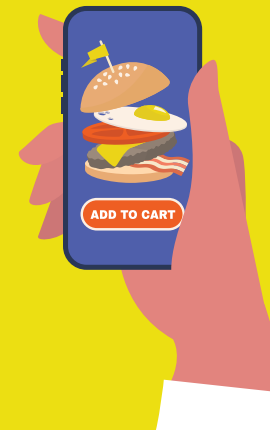


Elijah



Emily S. and Myka D.

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Maria Flores

think the news would be talking about it? There'd just be another slide on the [newscast]. It would've said another black man died in Minneapolis and four cops got fired and in other news, Donald Trump....

I don't condone the looting—but it has everybody's fucking attention. And everybody's looking at Minneapolis, everyone's wondering what's going on, why's the city behaving like this? We never thought Minneapolis could behave like this, out of all the cities in the state, out of all the states in the nation. We didn't think Minneapolis would be the city to stand up and do some shit like this.

That man's never going home. That man will never get to see his family. That man will never get to do any of that. None of his family members will get that. There are people that deal with that daily. There are people that leave the house and they're fearful, daily.

"I just want us to go to a place where we actually try to come up from this and we don't stay stuck doing the same thing."

I have plenty of friends that go to restaurants in this day, 2020, and more often than not, no matter where I go, I'm always out of place. Always. Every single day. I'm always reminded of what I am.

EMILY S. AND MYKA D.

Myka: We're both from here. We live close to here. Grew up here. It's kind of upsetting seeing our city like this, but at the same time, when you think about it,

this is what people in the past did. This is what Malcolm X did. For us to just be standing out here freely without being racially profiled by each other.

Without this happening, we wouldn't be here. It seems wrong in a way, but it's right. There's not going to be change unless we do something about it. The only thing that the police understand is violence, so that's what they're giving them.

Emily: These are the things we learn about, the things that we see. And we

never expected it to be here in our very own city. But they're showing up, they're going out for our city. I don't know what people expect. This is what happens. We want to see justice.

Just this happening again, period, is not something that should continue to happen. For it to happen again, it's beyond peaceful protest. It's beyond that. This is what needs to happen for us to be heard, just listened to, and maybe, hopefully, we're praying that we finally get justice. It's devastating that this happened in my city. But I'm also proud as hell. Look at everything that's going on. Everyone's coming together. I feel like we have unity, but this is just showing us that we're getting our recognition.

MARIA FLORES

We were not here last night. We went to Apple Valley to stay with my family. We were

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Antonio Maurice
Whittmon

scared, we were running! My neighbors, when the fire is ready, my neighbor say, Antonio and Maria, go, go! The houses may be burning, go, go! And I appreciate that. But I'm very sad for everything.

We are Hispanic people. I don't know what's going on. I understand the people protest, but protest, like, pacific. I don't know why they're burning a lot of business, you know? That one is very close to my house. Right next door. And we are sad about that.

The firefighters came to help us, to control everything.

Part of the roof melted.

This was Metro PCS company, next is like a Somali bakery, and next is a little restaurant for Ecuadorians. All immigrants. We try to grow, we try to do everything because you know, my country (Mexico) is very poor. And we come to immigrate from there to here (20 years ago) for a better life. All life matters. All life. I don't care if it's black, white, Hispanic, or Chinese. Every life matters.

The police officer, it was wrong. But it was only one person, you know? I hope it never happens again, everything. This is like a crime.

We really love these businesses because they're helping us to pay the cell phones or something. The Somali bakers, sometimes when they do a lot and they have extra cake, they say, "Oh do you want some?" We go almost every day because they have a little store inside, for picking up groceries, milk, things like that. And we're sad about that, very sad. It's not rich people.

ANTONIO MAURICE WHITTMON

I live on 38th and Chicago by Phelps Park, right across the street, like one block away from where everything happened at. I was at home. After I heard about it, my whole community kind of just made it noticed that a lot of stuff was happening.

I'm originally from Brooklyn, New York, south side. My brother died from black-

on-black violence, that's why my mom moved us to Minnesota to get away from the fast lane. My brother was killed by a gang member. He was a gang member himself. Seventeen going on 18. I was around 12.

I just want us to go to a place where we actually try to come up from this and we don't stay stuck doing the same thing. I don't want to stay stuck in the same place. I wanna move forward. I don't want to stay stuck in this bad place of everybody just going in stores, they're shutting down fast food restaurants. We can't even go to McDonald's, nowhere to eat no more.

We understand that and everything. It's crazy that all we're asking is for them to arrest all four officers and not just for third degree [murder]. They need to have first degree because if we did that shit on camera, they would persecute us and hold us to the highest offense. You know how many people kill people, and they don't even do it on purpose, and they in jail for 25 to life. So this is crazy

that they protect their own, but when it comes to citizens like us, they don't care, and we're tired of that.

At the end of the day, we do come from a generation—we're not the '90s and the '80s. Bring in your National Guard, your dogs, and they attack us and throw water at us. No, we're gonna fight y'all, we're gonna burn down shit, and we're gonna show y'all we're gonna fuck up shit, and it's gonna cost rich people way more than it's gonna cost the middle class and the lower class, whatever you wanna call us. *Why are you carrying the flag?*

Freedom, unity. It's the United States. I believe unlike the rest of the world, this is not a third-world country. We have a lot more freedom than other people have in their countries. We get to do a lot more than other people. That's what this means to me. This is freedom. To protest. Peacefully. Not causing no harm, not bringing no problems to the world, not bringing anybody with me, just by myself. 



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REACTIONS AND RAGE

Words and images from a painful week of George Floyd protests —by SUSAN DU



"He loved the city. He came here and stayed here for the people and the opportunities. ... Floyd was a gentle giant. He was about love and about peace."

— COURTENEY ROSS,
GEORGE FLOYD'S GIRLFRIEND

"Always cheerful. He had a good attitude. He would dance badly to make people laugh."

— JOVANNI THUNSTROM,
OWNER OF CONGA LATIN BISTRO

"In a lot of instances, the police haven't done any thing to be worthy of being looked at and respected. If you want to be looked at and respected, you have to treat people with respect, and look at them with love and kindness."

— CLARENCE CASTILE,
UNCLE OF PHILANDO CASTILE

"Now is not the time to rush to judgment and condemn our officers."

— POLICE OFFICERS
FEDERATION OF MINNEAPOLIS

"They want us to destroy our stuff. They're not gonna move. So let's do this another way. Let's stop thinking our voice don't matter, and vote."

— TERRENCE FLOYD,
GEORGE FLOYD'S BROTHER

"What in the world does burning down MIZIGI, or Juxtaposition Arts, on the North Side, have to do with justice for Floyd? Nothing!"

— ATTORNEY GENERAL
KEITH ELLISON

"My heart and my guts are being ripped out in this moment, as I also want to go to the streets. And what we've witnessed in the loss and the murder of our community member, George Floyd, is horrific."

— PEGGY FLANAGAN,
LIUTENANT GOVERNOR



BRADEN LEE

Dua Saleh is one of the Twin Cities music scene's most essential new voices. On their 2019 EP *Nur*, the Sudanese-born and St. Paul-raised singer/rapper established themselves with a poetic sensuality that somehow managed to sound both brooding and playful.

But Saleh is also a committed activist, and they're an artist whose perspective is particularly needed right now. As the police response to protests against the killing of George Floyd was growing increasingly violent this past weekend, Saleh dropped a new song, "body cast," that addresses "police brutality and injustice," according to a statement on their Bandcamp page.

Saleh says that the song, recorded with their frequent collaborator, the nationally acclaimed producer Psymun, isn't new and was intended as part of a future project (perhaps referring to *ROSETTA*, the new album they're set to drop next month) but that this particular

moment called for its early release. The single's cover art lists unarmed black people killed by the police, and there are so many. Commenting on the art in a press release, Saleh said, "We will not accept any more names added to this list."

On "body cast," Saleh's voice is both fierce and mournful as it expresses frustration in dense lines of sharp interlocking imagery:

*Lately I've had plaster on my mind
County ain't on shit they got bodies on
the line*

NOT ONE MORE

Dua Saleh targets police brutality with their new single "body cast"

BY KEITH HARRIS

*Lately I've been analyzing time
Y'all been dodging cameras like they bullets
over crime*

To provide context for Saleh's lyrics, the track is bookended with audio clips from a 2019 video of a Billings, Montana woman, Angela Whitehead, as she stood up to police who attempted to enter her home illegally, a clash that went viral last year. "I know my rights," Whitehead tells the officers to close out the track. "They cannot walk in my home. Cause if this door was closed they would've had to knock. Don't ever do that again,

thank you."

Saleh is donating 100 percent of the proceeds from "body cast" to the Black Visions Collective, the social justice nonprofit of which they are a member. It's an organization centered in "healing and transformative justice principles that nurtures emerging black leadership."

Saleh also contributed to a Rolling Stone story last week that collected the perspectives of black Minnesota musicians on the George Floyd killing, including New Power Generation drummer Michael Bland and rappers Nur-D and Finding Novyon.

In their Rolling Stone comments, Saleh called out Mayor Jacob Frey ("Frey is more invested in the aesthetic of thoughtful leadership, but in my opinion, Mayor Frey does not seem to be practicing thoughtful leadership"), noted that "mobilization by those that organize is overwhelmingly led by trans and queer black people," and revealed that illness has kept them home during the protests while they await COVID-19 test results. **CP**

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries poet Paul Verlaine wrote "Autumn Song" in 1866. It became a well-known French poem, and eventually played a role in a historical turning point. In June 1944, a top-secret British spy organization used the poem as a code to communicate crucial information to the French Resistance, via BBC radio, about the allies' upcoming D-Day invasion of Normandy. In the spirit of poetry being used to accomplish practical actions, I'm now sending out a burst of code to you, Aries. It's adapted from another poem by Verlaine: "Delight in good-omened fortune, baptized by the bristling scents of mint, thyme, and clover on the wind of dawn." Regard this as a signal for you to acquire a necessary resource, strengthen connections with key allies, and intensify your current quest.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus philosopher Bertrand Russell observed, "The best life is the one in which the creative impulses play the largest part and the possessive impulses the smallest." That is always an important principle for everyone to embrace, in my opinion. But it will be an especially essential truth for you in the coming weeks. Your creative powers will thrive, even soar and generate blessings, to the degree that you downplay and outwit your possessive inclinations.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "It's OK to live a life others don't understand," writes author Jenna Woginrich. That's a healthy attitude for an eccentric person like her, who taught herself by trial and error how to run a small farm with a meager budget while all alone in the middle of nowhere. But does her advice apply to everyone? I say yes, it does. All of us have quirky behaviors and idiosyncratic ideas and odd feelings that other people find hard to understand, let alone appreciate. I bring this to your attention, Gemini, because the coming weeks will be a time when it's best for you to emancipate yourself as much as possible from the need to be perfectly understood as you express your raw, pure, unique self.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): I'm one of the lucky people who has never been addicted to alcohol or drugs. What's the source of my great fortune? Two kinds of grace are key: I suffered no abuse and trauma when I was growing up, and my genetic make-up doesn't predispose me to self-medicate with intoxicants. But I am indeed a bit addicted to other things, like fearful fantasies, sexual feelings, and the urge to win arguments. So I'm blessed in some ways, cursed in others—just like all of us! In honor of our season of introspection, my fellow Cancerian, I invite you to do what I just did: Count your blessings and curses. Doing so will bring you just the right kind of healing.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Jacquemus Mini Le Chiquito" is the name of a tiny purse you can buy for \$522. It fits into the palm of your hand, and won't hold much—maybe a single-use strand of dental floss, a shoe from a Barbie doll, a snippet of a loved one's hair, an aspirin, maybe a few crumbs from a potato chip. In any case, I don't recommend it for you. You should be surrounding yourself with symbols of capaciousness and roominess. You need influences that inspire you to be a spacious container. It's time for you to welcome and receive an abundance of blessings, inquiries, and invitations.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Worry is a way to pretend that you have knowledge or control over what you don't," writes author Rebecca Solnit. "And it surprises me, even in myself, how much we prefer ugly scenarios to the pure unknown." Your assignment in the coming weeks is to thoroughly incorporate Solnit's wisdom—and then wield it with tender ferocity as you reshape your relationship with the future. See if you can manage, if only for ten days, to fight off and dissolve the reflex to worry. Here's a tip: Any time the agitated fantasy of an ugly scenario rises up in your imagination, remind yourself that it's not objectively true and immediately replace it with a fantasy of a desirable scenario.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Nobel Prize-winning Libran author William Faulkner was asked by a cousin if he was drunk when he dreamed up the imaginative stories and characters in his novels. The truth was that on occasion Faulkner did indeed consume alcohol in excessive amounts. However, he rarely indulged while actually writing. His creative ideas mostly came from his fertile imagination, not an unhinged spirit. In the coming weeks, I hope you will be like Faulkner during the inventive phases he enjoyed while sober and disciplined and driven by focused intention. The astrological omens suggest that's the best recipe for generating original ideas and productive visions.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "What use is this howling tenderness?" wrote eighth-century Tamil mystic poet Andal. My research on Google reveals that no one has answered her question until now. I decided you would benefit from hearing my response, since you are in a chapter of your life story when howling tenderness could work to your benefit. So here's my counsel: Howling tenderness is useful because it has the power to shatter mysterious barriers that have been at least partially obstructing you from exploring the frontiers of sacred intimacy.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield articulates the spiritual medicine I think you should seek in the coming weeks. You especially need it, and by happy coincidence, it's likely to be available. Kornfield writes: "When we have for so long been judged by everyone we meet, just to look into the eyes of another who does not judge us can be extraordinarily healing." I urge you to identify the people who can perform this service for you, then ask them point-blank to perform this service, even if it has to happen over Facetime or via Zoom. To generate the good karma that will ensure this happens in just the right way, offer to perform the same service for others.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "The changes we dread most may contain our salvation," writes author Barbara Kingsolver. Although I mostly agree with her conclusion, I'll also suggest that we could come up with less melodramatic versions of it. For example, we might say, "The adjustments we're resisting may actually be healthy." Or "The uncomfortable transitions we're avoiding might ultimately lead to a better version of comfort." Or "The revelations we're attempting to ignore and deny could eventually be the source of relief and release." Do any of these work for you right now, Capricorn? I bet at least one does.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people seem to think of sacredness as being pristine and pious—an immaculate and orderly transcendence of earthly concerns. Author and minister Marilyn Sewell has a different perspective. "Who can order the Holy?" she asks. "It is like a rain forest, dripping, lush, fecund, wild. We enter its abundance at our peril, for here we are called to the wholeness for which we long, but which requires all we are and can hope to be." I recommend Sewell's version of holiness to you in the coming weeks, Aquarius. You're primed to upgrade and deepen your sacred lust for life.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When Europeans arrived in the New World, the Iroquois Confederacy in what's now northeastern North America had been practicing participatory democracy for 350 years. The visionary principles of these native people ultimately influenced the formation of the United States and its Constitution. Now would be a good time for you to be inspired by these facts. How? You could draw teachings from the past and use them to create your future. You could study the perspectives of indigenous people and incorporate their wisdom into the way you live your life. You could tune in to and explore the traditions of people you respect and adopt them for your own use.

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ICU

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Drape atop
8 Court legend Andre
14 Ask
15 Country singer Lyle
16 German delicacies?
18 Songbird's syllable
19 Pacers competition?
20 To and ____
21 Actor Borgnine
23 "Give it a shot"
24 It might be + or -
25 Cheer (for)
26 Got off one's high horse?
28 Edge of a coffee cup
29 Unnamed gentleman
30 Chimney part
31 Fancy purse material
32 Pope who was kind of a jerk?
34 Foiled weapon
37 Donegal's country
38 Cost for entering
41 Saudi resident
42 Overly precious
43 Cry, like an alley cat
44 Sci-fi author Chiang
45 Altar in the night sky
46 Ohio city where The Breeders are from
48 :(
49 "The Communist Manifesto" co-author

- 51 "____ Homo" (DEVO song)
52 Part of a nuclear reactor that does some serious flattening?
55 Inability to talk
56 Most effortless
57 First name in mysteries
58 "Hmmm..."

Down

- 1 Embroidery on an Expos baseball cap
2 Wrong
3 Summer or winter phenomenon
4 Juicing station
5 Old stringed instruments
6 Sea bird
7 Chiefs coach Andy
8 Herb ____ & the Tijuana Brass
9 "I'm stunned!"
10 Gardner in "On the Beach"
11 Ignite
12 PED injection
13 "Put your wallet away"
17 Sugar substitute?
22 Mohs scale mineral
27 Neither hot nor cold
28 Touring group's rental
30 Christmas image
31 WNBA star Bird

- 32 Belle of the ball
33 Mad as heck
34 Tangerine alternative
35 Large floor covering
36 Statistical gobbledeygook
38 Picks up
39 Language spoken by bearlike creatures on the moon planet Endor
40 The USA, to Mexico
42 Hospital wing
43 Eye ailment
45 Pennsylvanian sect
47 "Only ____ peace based on the inherent rights and dignity of every individual can truly be lasting." (Obama)
50 ____ Energy Center (Minnesota Wild stadium)
53 Minor annoyance
54 "Insecure" star

Last Week's Answer

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SAVAGE LOVE

Blinders

Sex makes me... too nervous to have sex

I'm a 32-year-old gay man and I have trouble staying out of my head during sex. There may be many issues. The one non-issue is everything works fine on my own. When I'm single or "available," I'm OK. I'm a slut and I enjoy it. But when I'm trying to have an actual relationship, the sex suffers. With a partner I care about, I feel small both mentally and physically. I worry my dick is small. I know better, but something in me is always asking... are you really enough?



Dan Savage

I'm in an open relationship with a guy I've known for a decade. Often I'm hard AF just sitting there relaxing with him. But the closer we get to having sex, the more nervous I become. It's almost like I feel ashamed to want someone so much, or something? I would love nothing more than to fuck like rabbits until we were exhausted. I love him and I want to be able to please him sexually! Our intimacy, our conversation, our connection—everything else is so strong. But I feel like my problem will kill any future I might have with him. He hasn't really expressed concern, but I worry. I've considered therapy but the idea of talking to some stranger about my sex life is daunting. What do I do? My other thought is to just blindfold him and say bottoms up.

DAZED IN LOVE

You don't wanna talk with a therapist about your issues, but you're willing to talk to me and all of my readers about them. I realize it's a little different, as you don't have to look me in the eye while we discuss your dick. But there are therapists who specialize in helping people work through their issues around sex, and they're usually pretty good at setting nervous new clients at ease. I would encourage you to have a few sessions with a sex-positive queer shrink (find one at the website of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists: aasect.org). Talking to a therapist will be awkward at first. But just like eating ass, the more you do it, the less awkward it gets.

In the meantime, go ahead and blindfold your boyfriend, if he's game. You

seem to have an irrational fear of being seen. If your boyfriend were to get a good look at you naked, you're convinced he would conclude—even though he's known you for a decade and is obviously into you—that you're not "enough" for him. So don't let him get a good look.

Don't lie to him—tell him you feel a little insecure—but bringing in a blindfold makes working through your insecurities into a sexy game. Not being seen will free you to enjoy sex, and after a few hot sessions with

your sensory-deprived boyfriend, your confidence may get the boost it needs.

Intimacy and hot sex are often negatively correlated—the more intimate a relationship becomes, the less hot the sex gets. If you're in an open relationship and can get sex elsewhere, well, then you can have love and intimacy and pretty good sex with your partner and adventures and novelty and crazy hot sex with other people.

Ideally, of course, a person in an open relationship wants hot sex with their committed partner as well. But some people can't make it work. The more invested they are in someone, the higher the stakes are, the less arousing sex is for them. Most of the people who aren't capable of having great sex with a long-term partner are in monogamous relationships and, judging from the jokes on sitcoms, they're utterly (but hilariously) miserable. You're not, so if you're incapable of having great sex with a committed partner, you don't have to go without great sex.

But it's a double-edged sword: If you can get hot sex elsewhere, you may not be motivated to do the work—talk to that shrink, get that blindfold, work through those issues—that would make it possible for you to have great sex with your partner and others.

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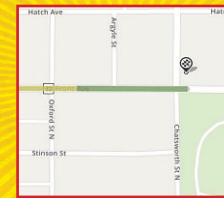
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<https://helpatyourdoor.org/>

Rebuilding a Better Community Together
 As we continue to grieve the death of George Floyd and advocate for justice, we know that now is the time to put our voices into action. Find volunteer and donation opportunities that address current needs in our community at <https://www.handsontwincities.org/community-rebuilding/>.

HandsOn Twin Cities wants to elevate and support the organizations that are rooted in the community and that have been, and will continue, the fight for racial justice.

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